



Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

**PILOT ANIMAL WASTE
TO ENERGY
GRANT PROGRAM**

November 2015

I. General Overview and Purpose

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is an independent unit of State government that works to promote the development of affordable, reliable, clean and resilient renewable energy resources for all Marylanders while maximizing economic development opportunities in the State. Among other things, MEA provides technical and financial assistance to Maryland's residents, businesses, and State and local government partners to encourage the development of innovative and alternative energy resources in the State.

As part of its mission, MEA is announcing the Animal Waste to Energy Grant Program (AWE Grant Program). The purpose of the Program is to make investments in projects that will use animal waste to generate electricity while reducing the environmental impacts that animal wastes can have on Maryland's valuable natural resources.

This is a competitive grant program. All eligibility and grant award determinations are made at the sole discretion of MEA, in accordance with grant criteria. All grant awards are contingent upon funding availability and the grantee agreeing to all terms and conditions required by MEA in a written grant agreement to be provided by MEA as part of award acceptance. Grant funds are to be used to reimburse the grantee for eligible costs. Grantees will be required to comply with certain reporting and auditing requirements.

For more information please visit:

<http://energy.maryland.gov/business/Pages/incentives/awe.aspx>

II. Grant Eligibility

- Maryland residents, as well as businesses and non-profit entities incorporated or registered and in good standing to do business in Maryland, and State and local government entities, are eligible to receive funding under the AWE Program.
- Eligible projects must use animal waste in an anaerobic digestion process to generate electric and/or thermal energy while reducing nutrient loading to the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries.
- Eligible projects must not exceed a rated capacity of 2MW.
- Eligible projects must be located in the State of Maryland.
- Eligible applicants (including any officers or directors of Applicant and any person substantially involved in the contracting or fund-raising activities of the Applicant) must not be suspended or debarred from contracting with the State of Maryland or any other public entity at the time of application.

- Eligible applicants must not be in default on any financial obligation to the State of Maryland at the time of application.

III. Grant Amount

The total amount available for the AWE Grant Program for State Fiscal Year 2016 is \$2,400,000 dollars. The AWE Grant Program has a per project cap of \$1,200,000.00. All grant awards are made at the sole discretion of MEA.

IV. Application and Award Deadlines

- November 2015 - Issuance of Funding Opportunity Announcement
- December 29, 2015 - Application Deadline

V. Criteria for Award Determinations

An evaluation team will be composed of MEA Staff members and possibly staff and/or consultants from other government agencies and other institutions or organizations. The evaluation team will make award recommendations to the Director of MEA for final determination. In developing award recommendations, the evaluation team will consider the following criteria:

- Grant Eligibility Requirements Set Forth Above
- Effectiveness of project at reducing or eliminating nutrients (particularly phosphorus and nitrogen) from Animal Waste from entering the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries
- Quantity of Animal Waste that can be processed by project to eliminate/reduce nutrients
- Capacity and efficiency of the project in producing electric/thermal energy
- Ability to beneficially use any byproducts generated by project and potential market opportunities for such byproducts
- Amount of public and/or private funds secured and/or already invested in the project (including by the applicant itself), including public investments from other Maryland State and local agencies or institutions
- Appropriateness of identified project site, including environmental and socioeconomic considerations as well as proximity to fuel sources, ability to utilize electricity/thermal energy generated from project on-site or otherwise
- Whether any contracts have been secured for the animal waste
- Whether any contracts have been secured for any electricity/thermal energy generated from the project
- Whether any contracts have been secured for any other byproduct from the project that can be beneficially reused
- Economic impacts on the host site and local and regional economies

- Qualifications and experience of the project team

Applicants may be asked clarifying questions in writing by the evaluation team during the review process, and may be invited to present their application to the review team.

VI. Application Requirements

Required Application Materials

1. A completed AWE Program Application Form;
2. A certificate of good standing from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation;
3. Site map with location of the proposed renewable energy system components;
4. System diagram;
5. A financial pro-forma for the project including total project cost, component costs, revenue streams, and relevant assumptions. Include a discussion of any values that cannot be quantified. (Note: this pro-forma will remain confidential and should be labeled accordingly by the applicant);
6. A narrative of no more than 20 8½ by 11-inch pages, which includes the following sections:
 - *Project description.* This section should give the review team a detailed overview of the project and should address evaluation criteria set forth in Section V above.
 - Project timeline and key internal milestones
 - *Project budget and grant request.* This section should include details on cost-share (minimum 50% required), total project costs, and how applicant would like to use grant funds. It should include, at minimum, the following:
 - i. A description of how the applicant would like to use grant funds;
 - ii. A total project budget with line items for equipment, labor, personnel, permitting/inspections, and administrative expenses (this can reference the pro-forma); and
 - iii. Other sources of leveraged funds to be used in the project, including cash, other grants or in-kind services.
7. Any supporting documentation related to the evaluation criteria (e.g., letters of commitment, evidence of availability of financing, poultry litter transportation and/or supply contracts). Please note that supporting documentation does not count toward the 20 page limit.

Confidentiality

Please mark or otherwise indicate any portion of your application that you believe is confidential. Any documents provided to MEA must be treated by MEA in accordance with the protection and disclosure requirements of Maryland's Public Information Act. If MEA believes

it is required to disclose a document that an applicant has marked as “confidential,” MEA will give the applicant notice prior to disclosure.

Application Submission

Hardcopy applications must be received by MEA by on **December 29, 2015**. Applications should be addressed to:

Pilot Animal Waste to Energy Grant Program
Maryland Energy Administration
1800 Washington Blvd. Suite 755
Baltimore, MD 21230

VII. Questions

Grant application questions may be submitted via email to chris.rice@maryland.gov.